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APR 7- 1954

25-8382

MEMO FOR: DD/I

FROM : AD/SI

SUBJECT : President's Executive Order 10521 to National Science
Foundation

1. The Problem. This memo is to answer your questions which may be stated informally as follows:

a. What will be the important effects of the subject order on CIA and especially on OSI?

b. What "jokers", if any, exist in this order?

2. Background Information. Based upon a study of Executive Order 10521 of 17 March '54 and conversations with Dr. Harry Kelly, and his assistants T.J. Mills and H.H. Rosenberg of the National Science Foundation, the following background information appears:

a. The National Science Foundation, (herein often called The Foundation) regards this order principally as emphasizing responsibilities which already existed. In fact many of the directives pertain to activities which it has been carrying on for many months.

b. The Foundation does not consider CIA as a Federal Agency engaged in scientific research. It did not send to CIA the documents and questionnaires pertaining to such agencies. The Foundation certainly does not expect to request of CIA any information which CIA is unwilling to supply.

c. The Foundation expects that the surveys named in the Order will require about two years before reports will be published.

d. Although the emphasis of the Foundation is on scientific conditions in US, it is interested in obtaining information on scientific conditions in foreign countries for comparison. The Foundation will not itself collect such information, but will obtain it from other agencies.

e. Except where required by the order, The Foundation is as yet undecided to what extent it will indulge in discussions of the large questions related to this order, or in recommendations.

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f. The Foundation has already at hand a large mass of material and has access to a body of outstanding consultants on scientific education, manpower and capabilities. It would be much interested in an exchange of information and ideas on these subjects with CIA.

g. Dr. Kelly had heard of the recent OSI briefing before the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization and was anxious to obtain a copy of the paper on this subject.


3. Effects of Subject Order on CIA. It is our opinion that the positive and negative effects of this Order upon CIA will be as follows:

a. CIA will not be required to answer questionnaires or make reports for the Foundation.

b. The Subject Order contains no foreseeable "jokers", which we need fear.

c. By strengthening the National Science Foundation, the Order will be helpful to CIA - especially in the area of OSI - by improving knowledge in the general fields of scientific education, scientific manpower and other factors which affect scientific capabilities. The Foundation will continue to co-operate willingly with CIA on these subjects.

d. The Foundation is willing to keep in constant touch with CIA on developments in this field.


H. Marshall Chadwell

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